



# Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2011–2012



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## What’s New in 2011–2012?

- The Conservation Commission has simplified the procedure for setting opening dates for duck seasons. This will give hunters an earlier indication of season timing. See Page 6.
- Two adjustments have been made to the South Zone to provide hunting opportunities that better match historic weather patterns, waterfowl migrations, local landscape features and hunter preferences in the southeast and southwest regions of Missouri. See Page 6.
- Hunters wishing to reserve a Conservation Department disabled-accessible blind must complete a physician’s statement of eligibility prior to their hunt. See Page 16.
- Grand Pass, Eagle Bluffs and Otter Slough conservation areas will continue using the Quick Draw system to award hunting spots. See Page 16.
- The Middle Zone Youth Waterfowl Season will open two weeks before the regular Middle Zone season. This will avoid conflicting with Halloween and will be consistent with last year’s timing. See back cover.



## **Introduction to Missouri Waterfowl Hunting**

Missouri waterfowl hunters now have more days and places to hunt than ever. Waterfowlers can hunt eight straight months beginning with teal season in September and concluding at the end of the Light Goose Conservation Order in April.

In the past 20 years, federal and state agencies, conservation organizations and concerned citizens have restored 25,000 acres of public wetlands and more than 100,000 acres of private wetlands—a small portion of the 87 percent of wetlands lost in Missouri. Today's hunters can hunt such varied habitats as shallow-flooded wetlands, flooded crop fields, dry crop fields, flooded timber, rivers, ponds and reservoirs.

## **2011–2012 Waterfowl Hunting Outlook**

The preseason outlook is similar to last year with high expectations based on a fall flight that is predicted to be well above average. However, weather, local habitat conditions and migration timing will play major roles in shaping the 2011–2012 season. This year, flooding along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and drought in southwest Missouri have resulted in highly variable wetland conditions. Timely migrations and favorable weather patterns, combined with season dates that bracket both early and late hunting preferences, should provide hunters with a variety of opportunities during the 2011–2012 waterfowl season.

## **Status of Habitat on the Breeding Grounds**

Ducks had ample water and good nesting habitat through much of their breeding range in 2011. Wetland numbers were up 22 percent from 2010 and 62 percent above the long-term average. Conditions improved substantially across Prairie Canada compared to 2010 with excellent wetland conditions in southern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Similarly, prairies in the north-central United States received ample snow and spring precipitation resulting in good to excellent nesting and brood-rearing habitat. Spring and summer rain maintained good wetland conditions throughout the breeding grounds, setting the stage for excellent duck production in 2011.

## **Duck Status**

This year's estimate of 45.6 million ducks is 11 percent above the 2010 estimate and 35 percent above the long-term average. In fact, it's the highest estimate since such surveys began in 1955. Blue-winged teal, gadwalls, shovelers and redheads appear to be doing the best as their populations ranged from 80 percent to 106 percent above their long-term averages. Mallard numbers are 9 percent higher than 2010 and 22 percent higher than their long-term average. Green-winged teal declined 17 percent from 2010 but are still 47 percent above their long-term average. Pintail numbers increased 26 percent from 2010 and are now similar to their long-term average. Although unchanged from 2010, scaup remained 15 percent below their long-term average. Wigeon numbers declined 14 percent from 2010 and are now 20 percent below their long-term average.

## **Loss of Habitat Impacts Waterfowl Nesting**

Grassland habitat for nesting waterfowl is declining in the northern prairies of the United States. Native grassland is being converted to cropland, and conservation gains made through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) since 1985 are now being rolled back. Nearly 1.5 million acres have been taken out of CRP in North Dakota and South Dakota since 2007. The loss of grasslands provided through CRP combined with an annual conversion of approximately 70,000 acres of native grassland into cropland could negatively impact grassland-nesting waterfowl such as mallards, pintails and blue-winged teal.





NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

Blue-winged teal in breeding plumage

## Duck Hunters Help Establish Missouri's Duck Seasons

In 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided states the chance to revise their duck season structure and zone boundaries for the next five years. To solicit input about zone boundaries and season dates, the Conservation Department surveyed 10,000 migratory bird permit holders and hosted 16 workshops attended by more than 300 people. Based on this input, the Department developed formulas to set season dates, modified the South Zone boundary in two locations and elected to maintain the current structure consisting of three zones and no split seasons.

### Adaptive Harvest Management

The federal Adaptive Harvest Management Program provides for a 60-day season with a six-duck daily bag limit in 2011–2012 for the 15th consecutive year. Each year's regulation recommendation is based on the status of the mallard breeding population and the condition of prairie ponds in Canada. A three-tiered package of open seasons includes liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days) and restrictive (30 days) options. For more information, go to:

**[www.flyways.us/regulations-and-harvest/adaptive-harvest-management](http://www.flyways.us/regulations-and-harvest/adaptive-harvest-management)**

# New Duck Season Date Formulas

Missouri's duck season opening dates will now be set according to the formulas listed in the table below. This change will enable hunters to make plans further in advance. Previously, hunters had to wait until late August to find out the timing of duck season. Now, hunters can determine season dates in late July, as soon as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces whether the upcoming season will be liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days) or restrictive (30 days).

Duck Season Opening Dates			
Zone	Liberal (60 Days)	Moderate (45 Days)	Restrictive (30 Days)
North	Last Saturday in October	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November
Middle	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November	3rd Saturday in November
South	Thanksgiving Day	1st Saturday in December	2nd Saturday in December

## Zone Boundary Change in Southwest Missouri

An adjustment to the South Zone boundary will add a small area in southwest Missouri to the Middle Zone. Previously, the boundary had followed Highway 54 to the Kansas border. Now, the boundary will extend south on Highway 71 from Highway 54 to Jasper County Highway M and then west to the Kansas border.

Hunters in southwest Missouri comprise two distinct groups. Those who hunt field-feeding ducks from Stockton Reservoir prefer a season that opens as late as possible. Those who hunt shallow water prefer Middle Zone season dates. The zone boundary adjustment offers a compromise between these two groups. The portion of this region with the most shallow water habitat will now be afforded Middle Zone season dates. A zone boundary located more than 20 miles west of Stockton Reservoir will allow field hunters to continue taking advantage of field-feeding ducks. See map, Page 18.

## Zone Boundary Moved West from Interstate 55 to Highway 25 in Southeast Missouri

Finding the best combination of season dates and zone boundaries to accommodate hunters in southeast Missouri continues to be a challenge. Southeast Missouri hunters responding to the *2009 Statewide Migratory Bird Hunter Survey* were nearly equally divided regarding season date preferences with 45 percent indicating they would prefer season dates similar to what they now have and 42 percent expressing a preference for dates similar to those offered in the South Zone. However, southeast Missouri hunters were in general agreement that ducks usually begin using the rice fields

and wetland habitat east of Highway 25 later than they use Otter Slough and surrounding private wetlands and rice fields to the west.

The rice fields and wetlands east of Highway 25 are separated from those to the west around Otter Slough by Crowley's Ridge. Moving the South Zone boundary west from Interstate 55 to Highway 25 places the habitat east of Highway 25 in the South Zone. (See map, Page 18.) This will provide hunting opportunity when more ducks are present east of Highway 25 without adversely affecting hunters in the remainder of the region. Although the boundary change will affect only a small portion of southeast Missouri, it will help the Department learn more about hunter preferences.

## **Hunters' Preferences About Duck Season Structure**

Missouri duck hunters favor the current structure of three zones and no splits according to the *2009 Statewide Migratory Bird Hunter Survey* and outcomes of public workshops conducted in spring 2011. Survey respondents and workshop participants were asked their preferred season structure among choices offered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at that time:

- One zone with no, one or two split seasons
- Two zones with a split season
- Three zones with no splits

Of statewide survey respondents with an opinion, 51 percent preferred three zones with no split seasons, 16 percent preferred two zones with a split season, and 33 percent preferred one zone with either no, one or two split seasons. Sixty-two percent of workshop participants also preferred three zones with no split season.

In addition to these alternatives, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced that states could offer four zones or three zones with a split season in each zone. The Department will review public input and make adjustments as warranted for the 2012–2015 period.

## **Missouri's Resident Canada Goose Status**

Giant Canada geese nest in Missouri and throughout the Midwest. Many hunters may be surprised to learn that Missouri's resident goose population—although commonly seen—is small compared to populations in other states. For example, Missouri's spring 2011 estimate of 53,000 breeding Canada geese was nearly seven times smaller than Minnesota's estimate of 370,000. Perhaps even more surprising is the fact that Missouri's population has been stable to somewhat declining over the past decade. This year's estimate is nearly 31 percent below the peak of 77,000 in 2000. Although too many resident geese can cause problems in localized areas, too few geese can result in poor hunting and fewer opportunities for year-round viewing.

## Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) Canada Goose Status

EPP Canada geese nest along the Hudson Bay coast in northern Manitoba and migrate into Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. Their population is much smaller than the giant Canada goose population and can be more susceptible to overharvest. This year's EPP Canada goose breeding population estimate of 133,000 is 23 percent smaller than 2010 but still near the long-term average of 145,000 and well above



the threshold that would trigger a more restrictive season. In 2010, state and federal agencies agreed to allow more-liberal regulations to remain in place for five years. 2011–2012 marks the second season of the new regulations.

## Missouri's Canada Goose Season

Missouri's Canada goose season structure provides easy-to-follow regulations, more days of hunting and larger bag limits than offered in recent history. Hunters who like to stretch out their waterfowl season can take advantage of the early Canada goose season. Hunters who enjoy combining duck and goose hunting can take advantage of concurrent seasons in December and early January. Late-season hunting is provided by a season that remains open through Jan. 31—as late as the federal framework allows. At one time, Canada goose hunters had to keep track of season dates for three segments within five different zones and bag limits that differed among season segments. Now, Missouri has a statewide season consisting of only two segments with the same daily bag limit throughout.

## Support Waterfowl and Wetland Conservation

Help ensure abundant waterfowl, healthy wetlands and a thriving waterfowl hunting tradition exist for future generations. Join a conservation organization to work with other hunters and conservationists. Consider buying an extra duck stamp to support the purchase of additional wetland habitat. Visit [mdc.mo.gov/landwater-care](http://mdc.mo.gov/landwater-care) for help managing your property for waterfowl and wildlife. Perpetuate the tradition of waterfowl hunting by mentoring a new hunter. Please get involved!



## When Hunting From a Boat

- Leave a detailed float plan with family or friends.
- Check the weather forecast. High winds can be dangerous.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Load gear low in the boat and distribute the weight evenly.
- Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times.
- If using chest waders, wear a belt to keep them from filling with water.
- Carry a throwable flotation device in case someone falls overboard.
- Transport firearms with the action open, unloaded and cased.
- At the first sign of a storm, head for shore.

### If your boat swamps or capsizes

- Stay with the boat, and use distress signals.
- To retain body heat, pull your knees to your chest and keep your elbows to your sides.
- Place an oar under your knees and another behind your back.
- If decoys are in reach, stuff them inside your jacket.

## Help Stop Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels have been found in several lakes and rivers in Missouri. Although less than 2 inches long, these exotics:

- **DISRUPT** native aquatic animals and communities
- **CLOG** the cooling systems of boat motors causing them to overheat
- **PLUG** intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants
- **RUIN** beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses
- **SPREAD** quickly—a single female can produce 1 million eggs a year



### ***When moving from one water body to another: Clean, Drain and Dry!***

- **CLEAN** all plants, animals and mud from your boat, putting plants and other debris in the trash. Thoroughly wash your boat, especially all crevices and other hidden areas.
- **DRAIN** all water from your boat, decoys and equipment before leaving the water body.
- **DRY** your boat completely before launching it in other waters.

*Report sightings to Invasive Species Coordinator, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, or call 573-522-4115, ext. 3371. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in rubbing alcohol or by freezing them.*

## Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess and transport ducks, coots and geese in Missouri, except during the Conservation Order, a hunter must possess and carry the following, unless exempt:

1) a **Missouri permit<sup>1</sup> to hunt small game is required of:**

- Missouri residents age 16 through 64
- Nonresidents age 16 and older

An annual permit is available to residents for \$10 and nonresidents for \$80 from any permit vendor. A daily permit is also available to nonresidents from any permit vendor for \$11 per day.

**Exemption:** Missouri resident landowners hunting on their own land do not need a Missouri small game hunting permit, but the Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and federal duck stamp are required (see below).

2) **Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit<sup>1</sup> is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and over.

This permit is available for \$6 from any permit vendor. Purchase of this permit satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration.

3) **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and over.

To be valid, the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) must be signed in ink across the face. The stamps are available for \$15 at U.S. Post Offices and some permit vendors.

## Permit Requirements for Hunters Younger Than 16

Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and younger are not required to purchase any permits in Missouri to hunt ducks, coots or geese during the regular season or light geese during the Conservation Order:

- If they are in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967;
- Or they possess a valid hunter-education card.

**Note:** During the Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days youth hunters must be in the immediate presence of an adult. See Page 14.

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<sup>1</sup>All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must complete an approved Hunter Education program and display their card before purchasing any firearms hunting permit.

## Who may purchase resident permits?

- Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- All members of the U.S. armed forces residing in Missouri on permanent change of station status and immediate family members residing with them.
- Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting or purchasing permits.
- Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, post secondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status while hunting. **Note:** Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them at Conservation Department offices.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit.

## Where to Purchase Permits

Purchase Missouri small game hunting permits and the Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit:

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. Buy early to avoid long lines.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card, and pay a \$2 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.
- Online anytime using the e-Permits System at **[mdc.mo.gov/epermits](http://mdc.mo.gov/epermits)**. Use your credit card, and pay a \$1 surcharge. Print your permit at home and have it in hand within minutes.

Purchase the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) at U.S. Post Offices and selected permit vendors.

# Apprentice Hunter Authorization

Hunters age 16 and older who are not hunter-education certified may hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- first purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization,
- then purchase permits for the season they want to hunt,
- and hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education certificate card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

**Note:** The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows those who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

## Ducks and Coots

**Shooting Hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

**Season Dates:** See table on the back cover.

**Limits:**

<b>Coots</b> . . . . .	15 daily and 30 in possession
<b>Ducks:</b> The <b>daily bag limit</b> of ducks is 6 and may include no more than:	
Mallards. . . . .	4, but no more than 2 females
Wood ducks . . . . .	3
Hooded mergansers . . . . .	2
Pintails . . . . .	2
Redheads . . . . .	2
Scaup . . . . .	2
Black ducks . . . . .	1
Canvasbacks . . . . .	1
Mottled ducks . . . . .	1

The **possession limit** of ducks is 12 (twice the daily bag limit; varies by species.)

## Geese

**Shooting Hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

**Season Dates:** See table on the back cover.

**Limits:**

The <b>daily bag limits</b> of geese are:	
Snow, blue and Ross's (all species combined) . . . . .	20
Canada . . . . .	3
White-fronted . . . . .	2
Brant . . . . .	1

The **possession limits** of geese are twice the daily bag limits, except there is no possession limit for snow, blue and Ross's geese.



Snow goose

## Light Goose Conservation Order: Feb. 1–April 30

A Light Goose Conservation Order will be in effect for the 14th consecutive year during spring 2012. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented this Conservation Order to reduce numbers of snow (including their blue color phase) and Ross's geese because they have rapidly increased in number and are causing damage to portions of the fragile arctic tundra. The Conservation Order will be in effect from Feb. 1–April 30 with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

## Permit Requirement for Conservation Order

During the Conservation Order residents and nonresidents age 16 and older only need a Conservation Order Permit to chase, pursue and take snow, blue and Ross's geese. This permit costs \$5 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents. Hunters with either a Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit or a Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit do not need to purchase a Conservation Order Permit. See Page 10 for permit requirements for hunters age 15 and younger.

**Note:** A Missouri small game hunting permit, Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and federal duck stamp are not required during the Conservation Order.



## Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days

In 2011, there are two youth-only waterfowl hunting days in each zone for ducks, geese and coots. Youth hunters must be:

- age 15 or younger;
- accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older who is not allowed to hunt ducks but who can participate in other open seasons.

No permits are required for youth hunters. If the youth possesses a valid hunter-education card, the accompanying adult does not need a permit or hunter-education certification. However, if the youth is not hunter-education certified, the accompanying adult must be hunter-education certified unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1967, and possess a Missouri permit to hunt small game or be exempt.

**Shooting Hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

**Season Dates:** See table on the back cover.

**Limits:** The daily bag limit for ducks, geese and coots is the same as during the regular waterfowl seasons. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit (varies by species), except there is no possession limit for light geese.

## Falconry Season for Ducks and Coots

### Season Dates and Hunting Hours:

- Sept. 10–25 statewide with hunting hours from sunrise to sunset
- during youth and regular duck seasons (see back cover for zones and dates) with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset
- Feb. 11–March 10 statewide with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

The **daily bag limit** shall not exceed 3 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate. The **possession limit** shall not exceed 6 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate.

## Harvest Survey Needs Your Response

If you receive a Migratory Bird Harvest Survey in the mail, please complete and return it even if you did not hunt or were unsuccessful while afield. The information you provide is important and is considered when establishing hunting seasons each year.



# ENJOY MORE TIME HERE

Ever have a lost or forgotten permit spoil your hunting plans? Not anymore. The Conservation Department's new e-Permits System lets you buy online, print your permit at home, and have it in hand immediately. You can even reprint the permit if you lose or damage it.

Find out how to use and enjoy e-Permits at  
**[mdc.mo.gov/epermits](http://mdc.mo.gov/epermits)**

*Then head to your favorite hunting spot!*

Not comfortable with online purchases? You can still buy your fishing, hunting and trapping permits by phone, at any MDC office or your usual vendor.



*Serving nature and you®*

## Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

The Conservation Department offers managed waterfowl hunting on 15 conservation areas, which are listed on pages 18–19. These intensively managed wetlands provide waterfowl with much-needed resources during spring and fall migration. Some of these areas have permanent blinds, and others provide opportunities for hunters to wade in or hunt from layout boats or boat blinds. Most have disabled-accessible blinds.

The Department limits the number of hunting parties on these areas to enhance the quality of the hunt and to maintain the integrity of the resource. There are four ways to obtain a hunting spot on a managed waterfowl-hunting area:

- Missouri residents may apply online for a reservation, which guarantees successful applicants a place to hunt on a specific day at a specific area. Applications are accepted from Sept. 1–18.
- Missouri residents may use the Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass and Otter Slough. Hunters can apply or “draw” online and know if they will get a hunting spot prior to driving to the conservation area. Quick Draw allocates 80 percent of the daily hunting spots to those who apply online; the remaining 20 percent are allocated to “poor-line” hunters. If a successful online applicant fails to show up for the morning drawing, his or her hunting spot will be reallocated to “poor-line” hunters. Quick Draw allows hunters to apply for a hunting spot as little as three days in advance. A Quick Draw on Monday of each week will assign hunting slots for the following Friday through Monday. A Quick Draw on Thursday will assign slots for the following Tuesday through Thursday. Quick Draw will begin accepting applications eight days before the season opens in the North and Middle zones. To learn more, visit [mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw](http://mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw).
- Residents and nonresidents can hunt with a reservation holder or a successful Quick Draw applicant. Hunting parties are limited to four people.
- Residents and nonresidents can arrive at a managed waterfowl-hunting area and try their luck in the morning drawing or “poor line.”

**New!** Hunters wishing to reserve disabled-accessible blinds must complete a physician's statement of eligibility prior to their hunt. For forms and additional information, visit [mdc.mo.gov/node/9631](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/9631).

### Report Your Bands: [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov)

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, harvest rates and distributions for a wide variety of migratory game birds.

To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov) or call 1-800-327-BAND (2263). You will receive a certificate of appreciation via email and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.



JIM RATHER

## How Managed Waterfowl Areas Divvy Up Poor-Line Spots

Walk-in hunters trying their luck in the “poor line” will use the “Every Member Draws” (EMD) procedure at seven managed waterfowl-hunting areas (see map on Page 18). At EMD areas, every person in a hunting party draws a numbered block or “pill.” The party uses its lowest number to determine its place in line to pick a hunting spot. On highly used waterfowl areas, the EMD system puts more hunters in the marsh by creating an incentive for hunters to team with family and friends instead of hunting alone.

All other conservation areas use the “One Member Draws” (OMD) procedure. At OMD areas, one member from each hunting party pulls a pill to determine the hunting party’s place in line. Areas that use OMD turn fewer hunters away and would not benefit from EMD.

After the pills are drawn, the lowest number gets first choice of the available hunting locations, followed by the second-lowest number, and so on until all available hunting spots are doled out. On some days, there may be more poor-line hunters than hunting locations, so it’s possible that not everyone in the poor line will get a spot to hunt.

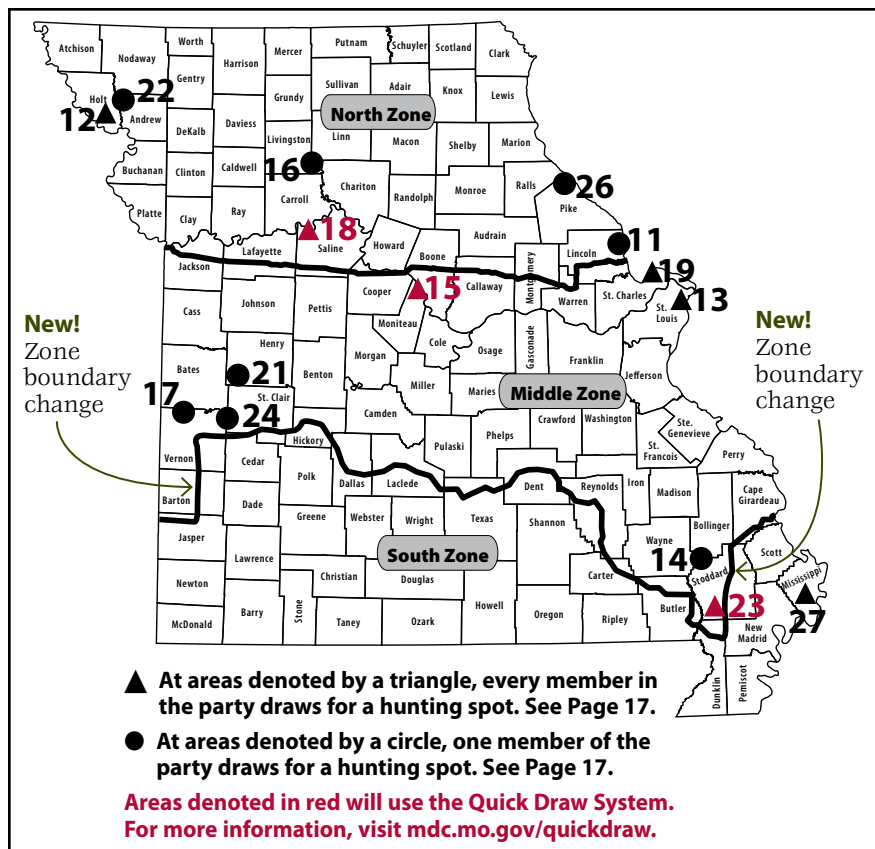
### Online Hunting Reports

For hunting reports that are updated twice a week, results of waterfowl counts conducted every other week and a wealth of other information about waterfowl hunting in Missouri, go to: **[mdc.mo.gov/node/303](https://mdc.mo.gov/node/303)**.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collaboration with flyway and state waterfowl managers offers a website containing information about waterfowl status, monitoring, harvest and regulations. Go to **[www.flyways.us](http://www.flyways.us)**.

## Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

If you are not a reservation holder or successful Quick Draw applicant, you must participate in the daily drawing or hunt with a reservation holder or successful Quick Draw applicant. For details, call the phone numbers noted after the area names or go to [mdc.mo.gov/18556](http://mdc.mo.gov/18556).



## Zone Boundaries

**North Zone:** That portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25; west on Lincoln County Hwy. N to Mo. Hwy. 79; south on Mo. Hwy. 79 to Mo. Hwy. 47; west on Mo. Hwy. 47 to I-70; west on I-70 to the Kansas border.

**Middle Zone:** The remainder of Missouri not included in other zones.

**South Zone:** That portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Mo. Hwy. 74 to Mo. Hwy. 25; south on Mo. Hwy. 25 to U.S. Hwy. 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to Mo. Hwy. 53; north on Mo. Hwy. 53 to Mo. Hwy. 51; north on Mo. Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Mo. Hwy. 21; north on Mo. Hwy. 21 to Mo. Hwy. 72; west on Mo. Hwy. 72 to Mo. Hwy. 32; west on Mo. Hwy. 32 to U.S. Hwy. 65; north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to U.S. Hwy. 54; west on U.S. Hwy. 54 to U.S. Hwy. 71; south on U.S. Hwy. 71 to Jasper County Hwy. M; west on Jasper County Hwy. M to the Kansas border.



- 11 B. K. Leach CA** (4,307 acres; Lincoln County) 573-898-5905. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (636-441-4554); boats provided where needed; 1 p.m. closure. Drawing held at Kings Lake Tract off Norton Woods Road.
- 12 Bob Brown CA ▲** (3,302 acres; Holt County) Hunting likely will be limited due to flooding; reservations will not be issued for this area in 2011; call 660-446-3371 for more information.
- 13 Columbia Bottom CA ▲** (4,318 acres; St. Louis County) 314-877-6014. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 14 Duck Creek CA** (7,557 acres; Bollinger, Stoddard and Wayne counties) 573-222-3337. Hunting likely will be limited due to renovation of units A and B; reservations will not be issued on this area in 2011; available positions will be allocated through the morning drawing.
- 15 Eagle Bluffs CA ▲** (4,440 acres; Boone County) 573-445-3882. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 2 ADA blinds; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 16 Fountain Grove CA** (7,154 acres; Linn and Livingston counties) 660-938-4124. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas. **Note:** Hunting in pools H and J will be dependent upon progress of wetland renovation.
- 17 Four Rivers CA** (13,929 acres; Vernon and Bates counties) 417-395-2341. Units 1 and 2 have 8 shooting pools. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps; camping; permits and stamps; open all day.
- 18 Grand Pass CA ▲** (5,096 acres; Saline County) 660-595-2444. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 19 Marais Temps Clair CA ▲** (918 acres; St. Charles County) 314-877-6014. Open to waterfowl hunting Friday–Monday only. Walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; 1 p.m. closure.
- 21 Montrose CA** (2,750 acres; Henry County) 660-693-4666. Water blinds; walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; open all day.
- 22 Nodaway Valley CA** (3,833 acres; Holt and Andrew counties) 660-446-3371. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); temporary blinds only; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 23 Otter Slough CA ▲** (4,866 acres; Stoddard County) 573-624-5821. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; water blinds; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 24 Schell-Osage CA** (8,633 acres; Vernon and St. Clair counties) 417-432-3414. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 2 ADA blinds; field hunting for geese; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 26 Ted Shanks CA** (6,705 acres; Pike County) 573-248-2530. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 27 Ten Mile Pond CA ▲** (3,755 acres; Mississippi County) 573-649-2770. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; boat ramp; permits and stamps; open all day. **Note:** Hunting may be limited due to flooding.

## Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the hunting of migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. For more information, visit [www.gpo.gov/fdsys](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys), where a complete version of Title 50, Part 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations can be found. When state law is different from federal law, hunters must follow the more restrictive law.

### No person shall take migratory game birds:

- ▶ With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- ▶ With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- ▶ From or by means, aid or use of a sink box or any other type of low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- ▶ From or by means, aid or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- ▶ From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- ▶ By the use or aid of live birds as decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- ▶ By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- ▶ By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- ▶ By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is or was baited to be in violation. Agricultural areas must be prepared in accordance with official recommendations to be legally hunted. It is a separate offense to place bait on or adjacent to an area that causes, induces or allows another to hunt by the aid of bait or over a baited area.

**WANTON WASTE:** No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in one's actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

**OPENING DAY OF A SEASON:** No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

**FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT:** No person shall possess, have in custody or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

**TAGGING REQUIREMENTS:** No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than one's personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

**CUSTODY OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER:** No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**TERMINATION OF POSSESSION:** Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by the hunter to a post office, a common carrier or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

**GIFT OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:** No person may receive, possess or give to another any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

**TRANSPORTATION OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER:** No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT:** No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

**MARKING PACKAGE OR CONTAINER:** No person shall transport by the U.S. Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

**NONTOXIC SHOT:** Shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide, or doves, rails, snipe and woodcock as designated by posting on public areas, must be approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of August 2011, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- bismuth-tin
- iron (steel)
- iron-tungsten
- iron-tungsten-nickel
- tungsten-bronze (two types)
- tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- tungsten-matrix
- tungsten-polymer
- tungsten-tin-iron
- tungsten-tin-bismuth
- tungsten-tin-iron-nickel
- tungsten-iron-polymer



Wood duck

# Tips for Shooting Nontoxic Shot

Of the many approved types of nontoxic shot, each has its own characteristics and benefits. Some, such as steel, are harder, pattern tighter and have more pellets in each load than lead shot. Others are more expensive, but have characteristics similar to lead. Regardless of what you choose, learn how it works with your shotgun before heading out to hunt.

Many hunters underestimate distances and shoot birds out of range. Find your effective range with nontoxic shot by practicing shooting at a target 20 yards away. Once you have that down, increase the distance to your target in small increments. This will help you learn to judge distances and how far you can effectively shoot before you go hunting.

To help hunters become more efficient and ethical harvesters of waterfowl and other game using nontoxic ammunition, the Conservation Department offers “Effective Wingshooting for the Hunter.” These classes were developed based on peer-reviewed scientific research by the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP). Certified instructors will teach participants how to choose the correct choke, load and shot size for different game, how to estimate shooting distances, and how to effectively lead their target. For information, go to [mdc.mo.gov/hunt/gamebird/wingshooting.htm](http://mdc.mo.gov/hunt/gamebird/wingshooting.htm).

*Be a better hunter: Know your effective target range before the season begins!*

Suggested Shot Size Selection for Waterfowl			
Waterfowl species	Minimum	Typical hunting conditions	Minimum desired pattern density (hits/30" circle)
Small/medium ducks	6 steel* 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	3–4 steel 4–6 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	120
Large ducks	4 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	2–3 steel 4 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	90
Small geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	1–BB steel 2 bismuth 2 tungsten alloy	60
Large geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	BB–BBB steel 1–BB bismuth 2–BB tungsten alloy	50
Close range is less than 35 yards; all shots should be limited to less than 45 yards. Velocity on all loads should be a minimum of 1,225 FPS.			
*Note: Small shot (#6) is an excellent choice for finishing wounded waterfowl at close range.			

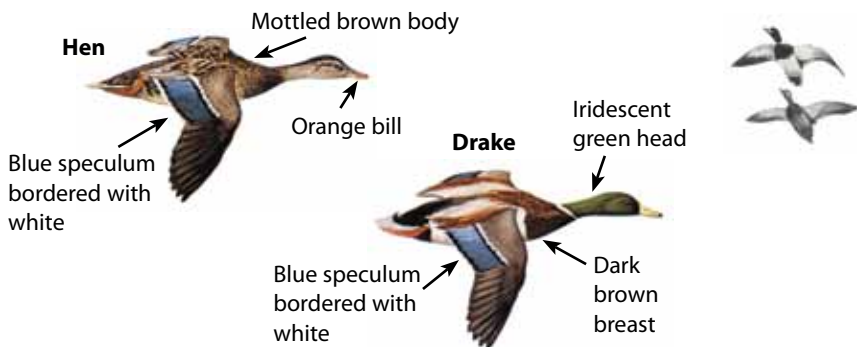


## Duck Identification

**The daily bag limit is 6 ducks with the following species restrictions:**

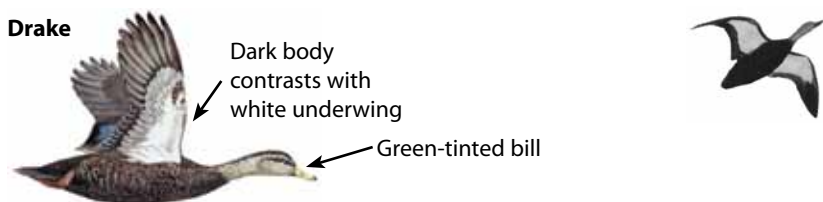
### **Mallard ■ 4 in the daily bag, but only 2 hens**

Mallards, or “greenheads,” are Missouri’s most common duck. Hens have a loud *quack*; drakes give a lower-pitched *kwek-kwek*.



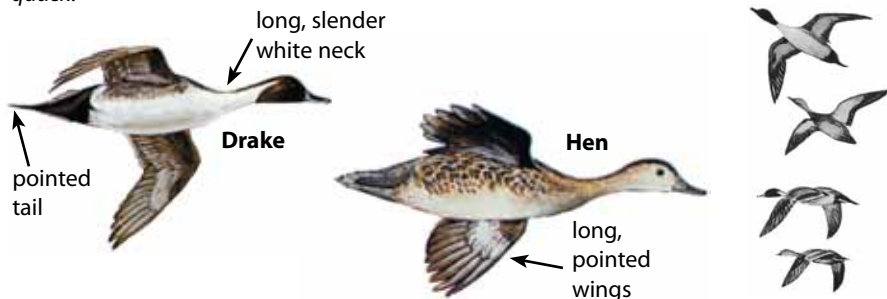
### **American Black Duck ■ 1 in the daily bag**

Male and female black ducks are similar in size, flight, voice and coloration to mallard hens. To avoid confusion, look for the white underwing and the green-tinted bill.



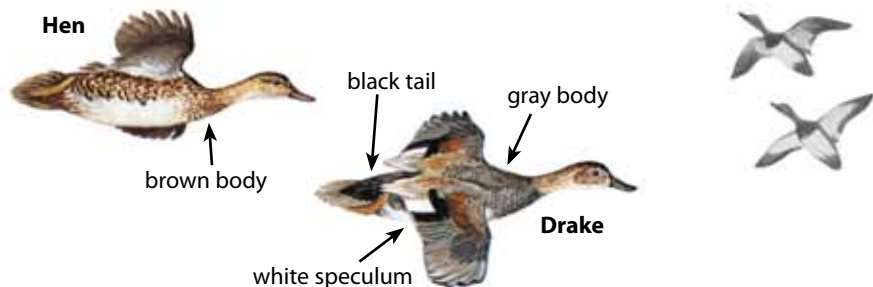
### **Northern Pintail ■ 2 in the daily bag**

These slender ducks fly fast and often zigzag from great heights before leveling off to land. They may be seen in flocks with mallards. Drakes whistle; hens give a coarse *quack*.



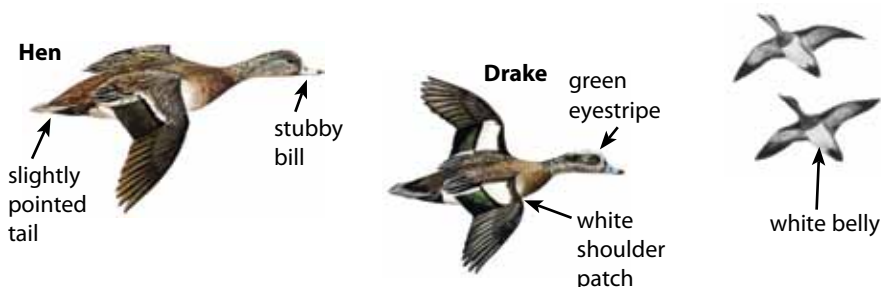
## Gadwall ■ 6 in the daily bag

These early migrants fly in small, compact flocks. They are the only dabbling duck with a white speculum. Note, however, that wigeon drakes have white shoulder patches.



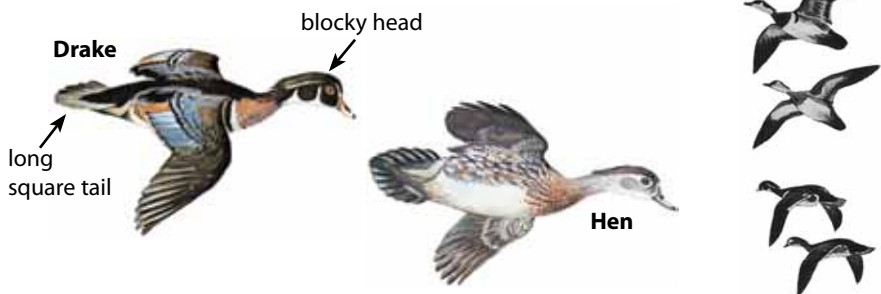
## American Wigeon ■ 6 in the daily bag

The green eyestripe and white belly and shoulder patch helps identify wigeon drakes. Hens are generally brown. Both sexes have stubby bills and slightly pointed tails.



## Wood Duck ■ 3 in the daily bag

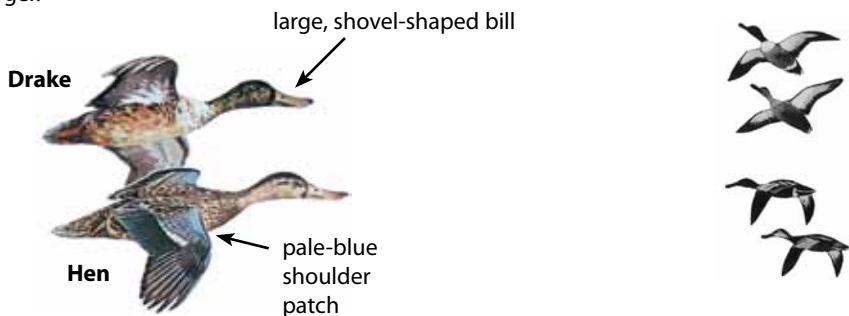
The drake wood duck is Missouri's most colorful duck. While flying, their wings make a rustling, swishing sound. Drakes call *hoo-w-ett*, often in flight; hens give a wailing *cr-r-ekk* when frightened.



## Duck Identification

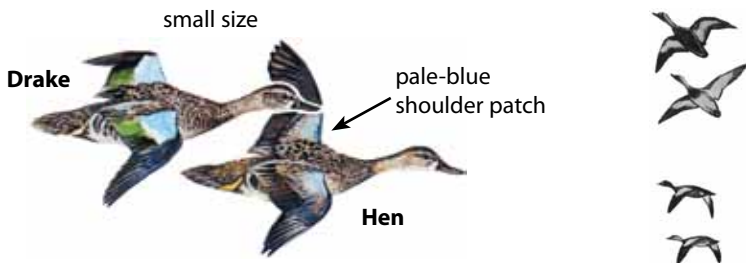
### Northern Shoveler ■ 6 in the daily bag

The large spoon-shaped bill helps identify this duck. Shovelers often form mixed flocks with blue-winged teal. Both species have pale-blue shoulder patches, but shovelers are larger.



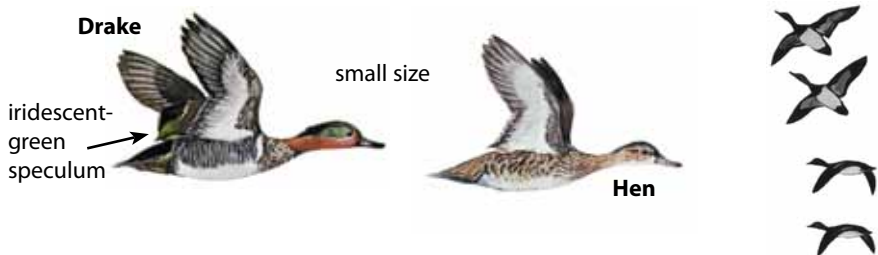
### Blue-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

These swift-flying early migrants are normally far south of Missouri by the time the regular waterfowl season opens. However, a few stragglers may show up throughout the fall.



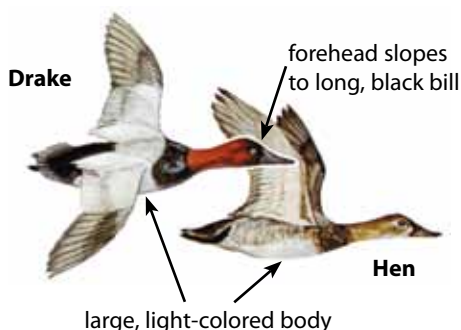
### Green-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

Green-winged teal are North America's smallest duck. Their size, rapid flight and iridescent-green wing patches help to identify this duck.



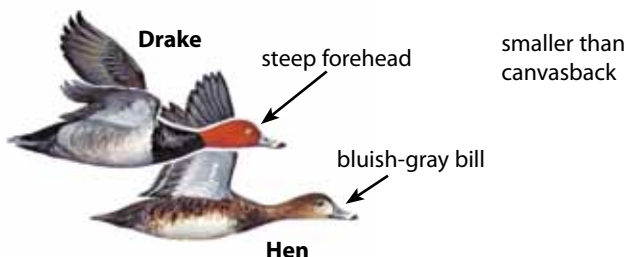
## Canvasback ■ 1 in the daily bag

The swiftest of all ducks, the canvasback has a rapid and noisy wingbeat. The bill, lighter coloration and large size distinguish this duck from the similar-looking redhead.



## Redhead ■ 2 in the daily bag

Redheads are most often confused with canvasbacks, but in flight they also look similar to ringnecks and scaup. Note the steep forehead and short, bluish-gray bill.



## Hooded Merganser ■ 2 in the daily bag

The rapid wing strokes of hooded mergansers give the impression of great speed. Mergansers are often seen in pairs or very small flocks.



## Duck Identification

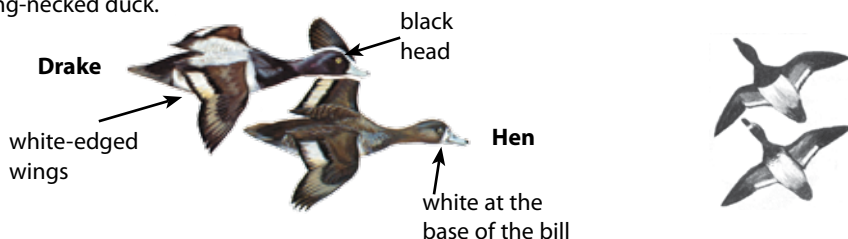
### Ring-Necked Duck (Ringneck) ■ 6 in the daily bag

This diver can be easily confused with scaup and redheads. In flight, the dark wings of ringnecks are different from the white-edged wings of scaup. The bold white ring at the tip of the bill is usually conspicuous.



### Greater and Lesser Scaup ■ 2 in the daily bag

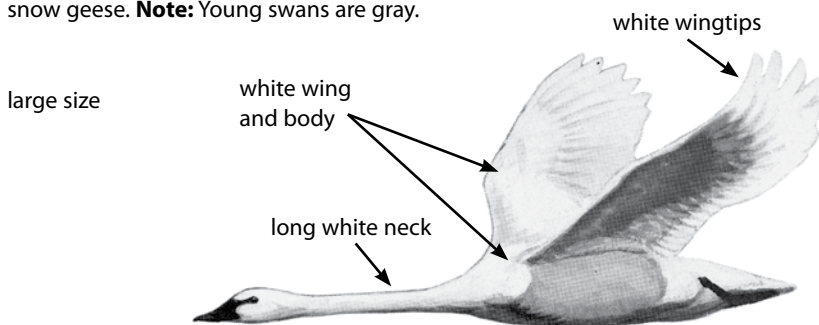
Except for the wings, greater and lesser scaup appear almost identical in the field. The white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the wing tip in greater scaup, but only halfway in the lesser. Do not confuse scaup with the similar-looking ring-necked duck.



## Trumpeter Swan

**Trumpeter swans are protected by federal and state laws and may not be shot!**

Trumpeter swans are twice the size of Canada geese and four times the size of snow geese. **Note:** Young swans are gray.

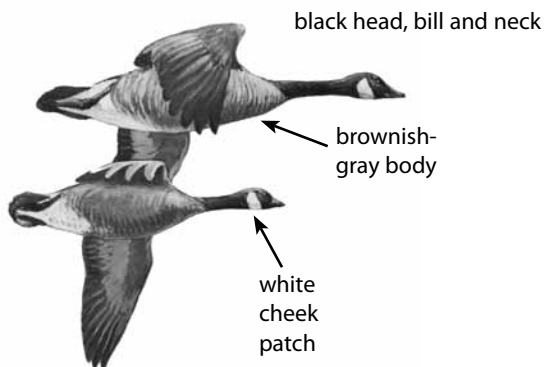




## Goose Identification

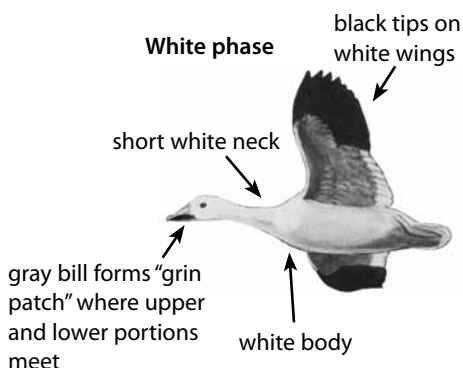
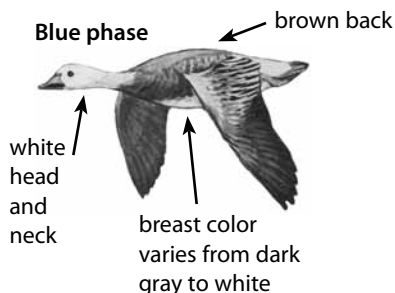
### Canada Goose ■ Daily Bag Limit = 3

Canada geese are often called “honkers” because of their distinctive call. The black head and neck, white cheek patch and brownish-gray body are distinctive.



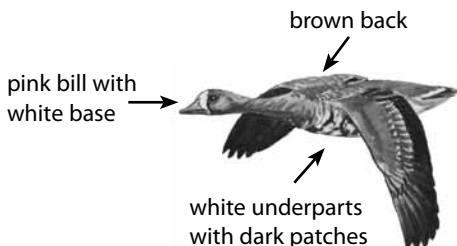
### Snow Goose and Ross's Goose ■ Daily Bag Limit = 20

Snow geese have two color phases: white and blue. Ross's geese appear nearly identical to snow geese, but have a shorter bill with no “grin patch.”



### White-Fronted Goose ■ Daily Bag Limit = 2

White-fronted geese, or “speckle-bellies,” fly in V-shaped flocks. Their call is a laugh-like series of high-pitched paired notes. **Note:** Immature white-fronted geese and immature snow geese appear similar. Immature white-fronted geese have pink bills, orange legs and black tails. Immature snow geese have gray bills, gray legs and white tails.





*Serving nature and you*®

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**Department of Conservation**  
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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

## Contact Information



### Central Region

1907 Hillcrest Drive  
Columbia, MO 65201  
573-884-6861

### Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road  
Lee's Summit, MO 64082  
816-622-0900

### Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
660-785-2420

### Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
816-271-3100

### Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.  
West Plains, MO 65775  
417-256-7161

### Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
573-290-5730

### Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair  
Springfield, MO 65803  
417-895-6880

### St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
636-441-4554

## Sunrise and Sunset at Jefferson City, Mo.

DAY	OCT. 2011		NOV. 2011		DEC. 2011		JAN. 2012	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	7:04	6:52	7:35	6:09	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:58
2	7:05	6:50	7:36	6:08	7:08	4:48	7:27	4:59
3	7:06	6:49	7:37	6:07	7:09	4:48	7:27	5:00
4	7:07	6:47	7:38	6:06	7:10	4:48	7:27	5:01
5	7:08	6:46	7:39	6:05	7:11	4:47	7:27	5:01
6	7:09	6:44	6:41	5:04	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:02
7	7:10	6:43	6:42	5:03	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:03
8	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:02	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:04
9	7:12	6:40	6:44	5:01	7:14	4:47	7:26	5:05
10	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06
11	7:14	6:37	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07
12	7:15	6:35	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:08
13	7:16	6:34	6:48	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:26	5:09
14	7:17	6:32	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:25	5:10
15	7:18	6:31	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:11
16	7:19	6:29	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:25	5:12
17	7:20	6:28	6:53	4:54	7:20	4:49	7:24	5:13
18	7:21	6:27	6:54	4:54	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:14
19	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:21	4:50	7:23	5:16
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22	7:25	6:21	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:51	7:22	5:19
23	7:26	6:20	6:59	4:51	7:24	4:52	7:21	5:20
24	7:27	6:19	7:00	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:21	5:21
25	7:28	6:17	7:01	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:20	5:22
26	7:29	6:16	7:02	4:50	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:23
27	7:30	6:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:25
28	7:31	6:14	7:04	4:49	7:25	4:55	7:18	5:26
29	7:32	6:12	7:05	4:49	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:27
30	7:33	6:11	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:57	7:16	5:28
31	7:34	6:10			7:26	4:57	7:16	5:29

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. **Sunrise and sunset from Oct. 1 to Nov. 5 have been converted to daylight saving time.** To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, visit the U.S. Naval Observatory website: **[www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications](http://www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications)**.

## 2011–2012 Waterfowl Seasons

Zone	Youth Hunt	Ducks	Canada Geese and Brant	White-fronted Geese	Light Geese (snow, blue, Ross's)*
<b>North</b>	Oct. 22–23	Oct. 29–Dec. 27	Oct. 1–9 <i>and</i> Nov. 24–Jan. 31	Nov. 24–Jan. 31	Oct. 29–Jan. 31
<b>Middle</b>	Oct. 22–23	Nov. 5–Jan. 3			
<b>South</b>	Nov. 19–20	Nov. 24–Jan. 22			

\*The **Light Goose Conservation Order** will be in effect from **Feb. 1 through April 30, 2012**, with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. A Conservation Order Permit is the only permit required, unless exempt. See Page 13 for details.

**Shooting Hours** 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

### Daily Bag Limits

(See Page 12 for possession limits.)

#### Coot Bag Limit

15 coots daily

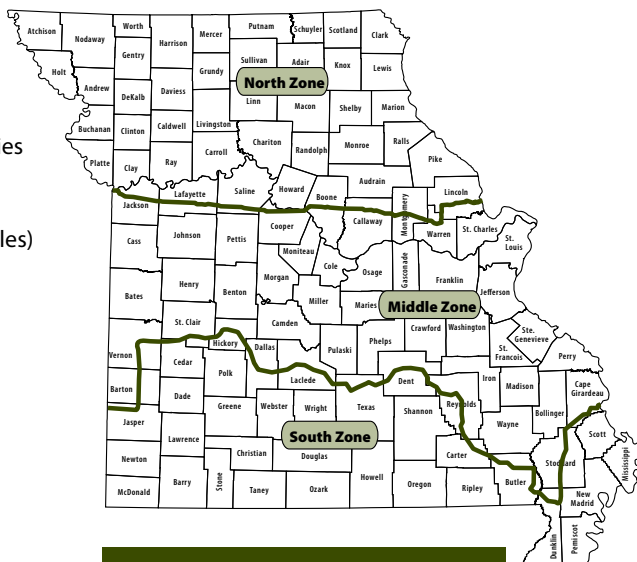
#### Duck Bag Limit

6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

- 4 mallards  
(no more than 2 females)
- 3 wood ducks
- 2 scaup
- 2 redheads
- 2 hooded mergansers
- 2 pintail
- 1 canvasback
- 1 black duck
- 1 mottled duck

#### Goose Bag Limits

- 20 light geese
- 3 Canada geese
- 2 white-fronted geese
- 1 brant



**For zone boundary changes,  
see Page 18.**

**For permit information, see pages 10–13.**